Jean M. Redeker, assistant dean for continuing education at the University of Kansas, is the 2009 recipient of the University Continuing Education Association Adelle F. Robertson Professional Continuing Educator Award.

In her role as assistant dean, Redeker works closely with university faculty and administration to facilitate the development and delivery of online courses.

She has served on numerous KU and University Continuing Education Association committees, has presented at a number of professional conferences and has tripled the number of recognition awards her unit has earned. She served as the curriculum coordinator on a $600,000 National Science Foundation grant and co-wrote the document that gained approval from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools for KU to offer distance degree programs.

Redeker began working at KU in 1999 and was promoted to her current position of assistant dean in January 2004. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Kansas, a master's in library science from Emporia State University and a doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Kansas.

She is the daughter of Bob and Mary Redeker, Ottawa.

She graduated from Ottawa High School in 1987.

Lynn Sleichter, senior.

Fany M. Morrow, junior;
and Mandy Marie Todd,
second bachelor’s.

Quenemo — Heather

Williamsburg — Miranda Diane Renfro,
sophomore.
Students from six Kansas high schools will be honored Wednesday, April 8, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 36 seniors from high schools in Neosho and Wilson counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at Chanute High School, 1501 W. 36th St.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Michelle Miles, assistant director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association.

Diana Carlin, professor of communication studies, will speak to the students and their parents and guests.

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment.

Honorees from the local area include:

Erie High School: Lauren Adams, Aubrey Creitz, Bethany Hastings, Allison Short, Tiffany Steinbacher and Maggie Vogts.

KU summer ‘Mini College’ for adults

The University of Kansas is accepting registrations for its first-ever “Mini College,” a weeklong learning retreat this summer.

The $175 registration fee includes courses, most meals, extra-curricular activities, and a graduation banquet. For an additional $25, educators may be able to receive two CEUs.

Mini College is set for June 1–4 at KU’s Lawrence campus and is open to any interested adult. Participants may commute or stay in a hotel or college dorm.

They may enroll in up to nine classes chosen from almost 30 offerings, including Use It or Lose It: Can You Slow Down Aging?; KU at the Energy Frontier: Our Role in the Large Hadron Collider; Religion and Basketball: Naismith’s Game; and Balancing the Federal Budget: Could You Do Better?

Participants may also enroll in one of four tracks that offer an opportunity to develop deep knowledge of a topic.

Options are Independent Film: Outsiders’ Voices; Meet the Authors: English Faculty Book Club; Ecology and Evolution of a Changing Planet; and The Art of Collecting: Curators Share How Museum Pieces Are Chosen.

Act quickly! Registration is open until April 1 for $175; late registrations will be accepted until May 1 for $200. Call 785-864-1767 or visit www.minicollege.ku.edu
Student wins award for research presentation

Philip Robert Adam, a University of Kansas senior from Kansas City, Kansas, received a $100 award from the Kansas Institutional Development Awards Network of Biomedical Research Excellence program symposium recently.

Adam, a senior in microbiology, received the award for his poster presentation of "Interaction of Deoxycholate with IpA, the Type III Secretion Apparatus Needle Tip Protein of Shigella Flexneri."

Adam, the son of Robert and Renee Adam, is a graduate of Piper High School.

The symposium was held in Manhattan, Kan. During the symposium, student researchers from the 10 campuses participating in the Kansas IDeA program delivered oral presentations and showcased posters of their scientific research. Sixteen students from KU's Lawrence campus participated.

Judges looked for clarity, organization, scientific approach and significance in the presentations.

The Kansas IDeA program is supported by a $25.6 million National Institutes of Health grant.
KU Honors

Jessica Watkins and Brian Stackhouse are among 36 area high school students from nine Kansas high schools to be honored Wednesday, April 1, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 36 seniors from high schools in Barber, Harper, Kingman and Pratt counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at Chaparral High School, 467 N. State Road 14, in Anthony.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Stefani Gerson, coordinator of student programs for the KU Alumni Association. Jonathan Earle, associate director of the Dole Institute of Politics, will speak to the students and their parents and guests.

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $11 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Ron Giesen of Anthony will be site coordinator. Bob Slinkard of Medicine Lodge will be Barber County coordinator. Debra Meisenheimer of Kingman and Charles Holcomb of Cunningham will be Kingman County coordinators. Cindy Keller and Marcia Suiter, both of Pratt, will be Pratt County coordinators.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

Honorees are listed below by high school.

Attica High School:

Kyllee Hermann
Chaparral High School:
Cord Denton, Austin Hughes, Jennifer Kiser and Trevor Starks
Cunningham High School:
Brian Stackhouse and Jessica Watkins
Kingman High School:
Morgan Hawkins, Tate Henry, Haley Miller, Lindsey Smith, Shannon Weniger, David Williams and Kristen Wollen

Medicine Lodge High School:
Natalie Archuleta, Elaine Eck, Kevin Kirkbridge, Danielle Morford, Seth Oldham, Kaitlyn Triffas
Norwich High School:
Ashley Balzer and Brian Rhodes

Pratt High School:
Darnell Bortz, Marina Dobbs, Jake Garrett, Caleb Gillig, Paul Harris, Cody Hullman, Bryce Krebbiel, Christopher Nicholson, Zachary Pixler and Nathan Southard
Skyline High School:
Katie Becker and Heather Domsch
South Barber High School:
Kelsie Johnston and Kaitlyn Morris
House to House
by State Rep. Pat Maloney

To the Constituents of the 116th District:

Who’s Your Governor?
Kathleen Sebelius is still the Governor of Kansas until she is confirmed by Congress as Secretary of Health and Human Resources. Since Congress is adjourning in a couple of weeks, there will not be enough time for the confirmation process to occur. Consequently I think she will be in Topeka through April 4 when this session of the legislature ends. She may even still be Governor during the veto session at the end of April.

Lieutenant Governor Mark Parkinson will become governor when Kathleen Sebelius goes to Washington D.C. He is from Olathe, Kansas, and was born in Wichita. He graduated from Wichita State University and then obtained a law degree from the University of Kansas. He practiced law and worked in the nursing home business. He has served in both the House and the Senate of the Kansas legislature. He and his wife have three children. After completing his term as governor, he plans to return to private life. He is highly capable, and the state is fortunate to have someone of his caliber to assume the office of Governor.

HB 2014 has been passed out of the Senate and was in conference committee this past week. There are a few differences between the two versions of the bill, but nothing that is expected to prevent a hasty negotiation. Hopefully both chambers of the legislature will vote on the bill this week. If approved, it will go to the Governor for signature or veto. Most expect her to veto the measure. The Senate passed it out by a 33-7 veto-proof vote. The House needs 84 votes and only had 79 when it passed out of the House.

The stimulus money has been a topic of discussion concerning how the money will be spent. I have only heard how these monies might be spent in regard to education. In higher education, Kansans would be aided in their college expenses with an increase in the higher education tax credit, an increase in the maximum Pell Grant by $500 for a maximum of $3530 in 2009 and $3550 in 2010, and additional funding for deferred maintenance projects at the universities across the state. If these campus infrastructure projects were addressed, they would create jobs and have economic impact all over Kansas.

With federal money, there are always strings attached. In K-12 education, Kansas will receive $367 million to maintain minimum levels of state support for local schools. To receive this money, Kansas must maintain at a minimum K-12 school finance at the FY 2008 or FY 2009 level, whichever is greater. The Governor has recommended holding per pupil funding at $4400 for FY 2010 and FY 2011. The Education Budget Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee both approved this budget recommendation. This will accomplish a balanced 2010 education budget, end the year with a surplus, and not raise taxes.

SB 25 is in hearing and would ban smoking in all public places. It does include several exemptions, including private clubs and the gambling floor of state-owned casinos. Supporters of this bill argue that research has repeatedly proved that both secondhand smoke leads to smoking-related illness, poorer quality of life, higher health care costs, and premature death. Additionally, because 80 per-cent of Kansans do not smoke, this legislation would protect those who are currently exposed to secondhand smoke in public places. These supporters think that public health should take precedence over anything else. They also argue that there is insufficient evidence that smoking bans have an adverse impact on local businesses. Some believe that the market alone should drive business decisions; if consumers want a smoking ban, then business owners will provide a smoke-free environment or the consumer will go else where. Some also point to the fact that tobacco products generate a large amount of tax revenue and that a smoking ban would lower this income. Thus, the desire for local control emerges as the primary factor of opposition concerning this issue.

Thanks to all the Kingman and Cunningham constituents that added their input and shared their concerns at the legislative coffees this past weekend. I am hoping to get something set up in Medicine Lodge, Kiowa or Harper County soon.

Please feel free to contact me at my office,
State Capitol Bldg, 300 SW 10th Street, Topeka, KS 66612. You can reach me at 785-296-7647 or call the legislative hot line at 1-800-432-3924 to leave a message for me. You can also e-mail me at pat.maloneys@house.ks.gov.
Foster, Flickinger Get KU Honors

FOR THE INDEPENDENT

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas has honored 392 student athletes to the Athletics Director's Honor Roll for 2008.

"Honored" were Dahn Flickinger, daughter of Corey and Rae Ann Flickinger, Sport Science BSE, Senior Rowing-Spring 2008, 4.0 Burorton High School and Steven Christian Foster, son of Steven and Loretta Foster, Sociology BGS, Sophomore Football Spring 2008, 3.00-3.99 Sedgwick High School.

Student athletes who achieved a grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale during the spring or fall 2008 semester were eligible for the honor. During the spring semester, 247 qualified and in the fall, 283.

Among those scheduled for special recognition at the game were students who earned 4.0 GPAs in one or both semesters, including 52 during the spring semester and 40 in the fall semester. Nineteen student athletes had 4.0 averages both semesters and 138 had 3.0 or above grade-point averages both semesters.
KU graduate student charts sinkholes that undermine a vital Kansas highway

LAWRENCE — A young University of Kansas researcher raised on a family farm in Clay Center is making U.S. 50 a safer highway and could save Kansas taxpayers a bundle of money in the process.

A.J. Herrs, a first-year master’s student in KU’s Department of Geology, is mapping sinkholes that underlie and deform the roadway near Hutchinson. Damage occurs to U.S. 50 as massive underground salt beds there are dissolved by groundwater, leaving voids that cause surface subsidence.

“There are two prominent sinkholes where U.S. 50 is being affected,” said Herrs. “It’s a major transportation corridor to connect Hutchinson with the Interstate. It’s been repaved several times over the past decade because of the subsidence.”

With funding from KU’s Transportation Research Institute, Herrs plots the surface of the sinkholes precisely using state-of-the-art technology called LiDAR, for Light Detection and Ranging. Use of the remote sensing device is a unique opportunity for a graduate student, since many universities cannot provide such expensive gear. The apparatus looks something like a space-age lunchbox set atop a tripod. The U.S. military and archeologists often use LiDAR technology.

“Basically, we set up the scanner at several points in the study area and we just tell it where to scan and it does all the work,” Herrs said. “By doing that, we can spatially constrain where the sinkholes are and how fast they’re sinking.”

The underground salt near Hutchinson comes from the Permian era, 299 million to 251 million years ago, when much of Kansas lay beneath a seaway. Today, the salt from the ocean water remains — and there’s a lot of it.

“The main area where all these problems occur is where the Hutchinson salt member underlies the surface, and that takes up about 37,000 square miles of the subsurface of Kansas,” said Herrs. “On the eastern side it’s 200 feet below the surface and it can be up to 600 feet below the surface toward the center.”

As the massive deposits dissolve, underground voids cause surface distortion along U.S. 50, and make frequent repaving a necessity for the Kansas Department of Transportation. It’s a costly process that data from Herrs’ research could make less urgent. Herrs is providing the department with important findings from his investigation of the sinkholes.

“If we know the subsidence rate, we can start to plan for budget reasons and also for just when you should go out and resurface or even build a new road if you need to,” said the KU researcher.

“This terrestrial LiDAR can be a very powerful tool for planning future projects and a way to go in and scout an area and get a good feel for what’s going on where surface subsidence has been known to occur.”

Herrs said there was no immediate hazard to passengers driving along U.S. 50 from the sinkholes. A driver would barely notice a sinkhole when driving over it unless they were paying close attention.

Herrs did recommend one spot as the best opportunity to knowingly drive over a sinkhole in Reno County. “You’ll notice a very subtle swag in the road as you drive over Brandy Lake,” he said.
Honors for area seniors

Students from nine Kansas high schools will be honored Wed., April 1, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 35 seniors from high schools in Barber, Harper, Kingman and Pratt Counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at Chaparral High School, Anthony.

Students from Kingman County who have been invited to attend are: Morgan Hawkins, Tate Henry, Haley Miller, Lindsey Smith, Shannon Weniger, David Williams and Kristen Wollen, all from Kingman High School; Brian Stackhouse and Jessica Watkins, Cunningham High School and Ashley Balzer and Brian Rhodes, Norwich High School.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curriculum, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

Local community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Debra Meisenheimer, Kingman and Charles Holcomb, Cunningham will be Kingman County Coordinators.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from Jayhawk license plate program.
Tran nominated for Udall scholarship/participates in Alternative Spring Break

Margaret A. Tran is one of two University of Kansas students nominated along with about 500 students nationally for 80 Morris K. Udall Scholarships. Nominees for the $5,000 scholarships must be college sophomores or juniors who demonstrate outstanding potential and study the environment and related fields or Native American or Alaska native college sophomores or juniors who demonstrate outstanding potential and study fields related to health care or tribal public policy.

Tran is majoring in environmental studies and economics to prepare for a public service or corporate career as a policy analyst addressing sustainability for production of food and energy. In Kansas, Tran has worked to promote awareness of the impact of coal-powered energy on Kansans and to promote the economic and environmental advantages of clean energy options.

As a regional director of the national nonprofit organization 2020 Vision, Tran led campaigns opposing proposals for coal-fired plants in Kansas. She is program coordinator for Environmental Action to Revitalize the Heartland, a program in KU's Center for Community Outreach.

Tran also participated in an Alternative Spring Break in which she gave back through volunteer efforts. She traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, to help with TreeUtah. Since its founding in 1989, TreeUtah has planted more than 300,000 trees. As a volunteer, Tran received an educational overview about the environment and interaction with nature.

With EARTH, she has organized students to volunteer with the local farmer's market and to collect and recycle cans at athletic events. Money from the recycled cans was donated to charities. Tran has worked with EARTH to revitalize a campus garden project that provides area food pantries with seasonal produce and students with organic farming and campus beautification experiences.

Tran hopes to educate others about sustainability through writing literature and occasionally song lyrics. She performs original songs as a vocalist and instrumentalist with Random Rain, a rock band. She was also nominated for a Udall scholarship in her sophomore year, and this year is a finalist for the national Truman scholarship.

The daughter of Chinh and Lan Tran and a Derby High School graduate, she is a National Merit Scholar.